

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, and 39 as follows.

1 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides; and
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides and having an outer circumferential body surface extending about a periphery of said body; and
- (c) ~~an~~ a non-flexible elevated wire interface, for conveying a weld wire, said elevated wire interface displaced radially outwardly from the outer circumferential body surface.

2 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, further comprising first and second elevated wire interfaces extending outwardly from, and along, at least a major circumferential portion of the outer circumferential body surface, and separated from each other.

3 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 1 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface is adjacent, but displaced from, at least one of the first and second sides.

4 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 2 wherein at least one of said elevated interfaces is adjacent, but displaced from, at least one of the first and second sides.

5 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said first and second elevated wire interfaces generally defining a channel therebetween, the channel optionally having a bottom corresponding with said outer circumferential body surface.

6 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface comprises first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a groove therebetween, and wherein a cross-section configuration of the groove corresponds in magnitude to a diameter of such weld wire for which said drive roll is designed and configured.

7 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 2 wherein at least one said elevated wire interface comprises first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a groove therebetween, and wherein a cross-section configuration of the groove corresponds to a diameter of such weld wire for which said drive roll is designed and configured.

8 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said elevated wire interface defining a wire interface diameter, the outer circumferential body surface defining a body diameter, and a magnitude of the wire interface diameter being greater than a magnitude of the body diameter.

9 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 1, further comprising at least one rim extending outwardly from ~~the base body surface~~ said outer circumferential body surface.

10 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 9 wherein said at least one rim defines a rim diameter having a magnitude greater than each of the magnitudes of body diameter and wire interface diameter.

11 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said at least one elevated wire interface comprising a circumferential groove extending inwardly from an outer-most portion of said elevated wire interface, to a lower-most portion of said elevated wire interface, the lower-most portion of said elevated wire interface being displaced outwardly, in said drive roll, from said outer circumferential body surface.

12 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said at least one elevated wire interface comprising first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a circumferential groove therebetween, and wherein the circumferential groove defines an arcuate cross-section.

13 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 11 wherein the circumferential groove defines a generally angular cross-section.

14(original). A drive roll as in Claim 9 wherein an outermost surface of said rim, from an axis of rotation of said drive roll, defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

15 (original). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 1.

16 (original). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim 15.

17 (canceled).

18 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides which define a width dimension therebetween; and
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides, said drive roll body having an outer circumferential body surface extending between said first and second sides, and
- (c) at least one rim extending radially outwardly from, and along at least a major circumferential portion of, the outer circumferential body surface, said at least one rim ~~defining a diameter which is greater than the remaining diameters measured along the width of~~

said drive roll which extends radially outwardly further from said drive roll body than the rest of said drive roll.

19 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 18, further comprising at least one elevated wire interface extending outwardly from, and along, at least a major circumferential portion of said outer circumferential body surface.

20 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19, said at least one rim and said at least one elevated wire interface being laterally separated from each other by a distance therebetween which includes at least a portion of said outer circumferential body surface.

21 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface extends outwardly from said outer circumferential body surface a first distance (D3) at a given locus on the periphery of the drive roll and wherein said at least one rim extends outwardly from said outer circumferential body surface a second distance (D4) at the given locus on the periphery of the drive roll, the magnitude of distance (D3) being less than the magnitude of distance (D4).

22 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim ~~18~~ 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface is spaced from both of the first and second sides.

23 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 21 wherein said at least one rim is at or proximate at least one of the first and second sides.

24 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface has a circumferential groove extending thereinto.

25 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 18 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

26 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 21 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

27 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 23 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

28 (original). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 18.

29 (original). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim 28.

30 (canceled).

31 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire having a predetermined diameter, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides,
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides which define a drive roll width dimension therebetween, said drive roll body having a generally circumferential outer surface, and

- ~~(i) a groove for conveying such weld wire having a predetermined diameter, said groove extending circumferentially about said drive roll and defining a first cross-sectional configuration;~~
- ~~(ii) a recess extending circumferentially about said drive roll, adjacent and generally parallel to said groove, said recess defining a second cross-sectional configuration which differs from said first cross-sectional configuration;~~

~~said groove and recess defining a distance therebetween, the magnitude of said distance being less than the magnitude of the weld wire diameter.~~

- (c) an elevated wire interface for conveying a weld wire, said elevated wire interface extending radially outwardly from a portion of the outer circumferential body surface, said elevated wire interface defining a width dimension which is less than the width dimension of said drive roll width dimension.

32 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 31 wherein said groove ~~defines first and second lateral support walls on opposite sides thereof, said elevated wire interface has~~ first and second lateral support walls converging toward each other.

33 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim ~~32~~ 32 wherein ~~one of said first and second lateral support walls intersects said groove, defining a peak therebetween~~ said elevated wire interface has a groove extending circumferentially thereinto.

34 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim ~~32~~ 33 wherein each of said first and second lateral support walls intersects said groove, defining first and second peaks, respectively, therebetween.

35 (previously presented). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 31.

36 (currently amended). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim ~~34~~ 35.

37 (canceled).

38 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 31, said drive roll comprising first and second ~~grooves~~ elevated wire interfaces for conveying weld wire, ~~said first and second grooves extending circumferentially about said drive roll and said first and second grooves laterally spaced from each other.~~

39 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim ~~31~~38 wherein said ~~groove defines a lowermost portion thereof which is proximate an axis of rotation of said drive roll, said groove lowermost portion being radially outwardly spaced from said circumferential outer surface~~ first and second elevated wire interfaces are laterally spaced from, and separate and distinct from, each other.

40 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 31, further comprising at least one rim extending radially outwardly from said circumferential outer surface.